

# STEP UP TO 840

ONE NUMBER, MANY USES

**NAIS** | NATIONAL  
ANIMAL  
IDENTIFICATION  
SYSTEM

Whether you buy, sell, or train horses, or own them for pleasure or competition, one thing is certain: it is important to provide your horses with the best care possible. Protecting your horses from disease is one of the most important tasks you face as an owner. You already take many precautions and work with your veterinarian regularly—and now there's another simple practice that you should consider.

## Take Advantage of NAIS and 840 Injectable Transponders

Most likely, you already uniquely identify your horses through tattoos, color diagrams, or radio frequency identification (RFID) injectable transponders. Now you can take identification one step further and use an NAIS-compliant, RFID injectable transponder.

At the recommendation of the Equine Species Working Group, NAIS uses an ISO compliant RFID injectable transponder to identify horses. NAIS-compliant transponders (also known as "840" transponders) are encoded with a standardized 15-digit numbering system that starts with 840, the numeric code for United States. The resulting number is known as an official Animal Identification Number (AIN). AINs are internationally unique and stay with the animal throughout its life.

Example of an AIN:

**840 234 567 890 123**

USA country code



To purchase an 840 transponder for your horse, you, or the person responsible for the location at which your horse is kept, must first obtain a Premises Identification Number (PIN). A PIN is a nationally unique 7-digit code associated with locations where animals are kept—such as, farms, stables, or fairgrounds. Similar to a rural 911 address used by first responders to pinpoint the location of 911 callers in those areas, the PIN allows animal health officials to quickly locate animals that may be affected by an animal disease event. Knowing where animals are located—not just the mailing addresses of their owners—is the key to rapid, accurate, and cost-effective disease response. You can obtain a PIN by contacting your State or Tribal animal health official. For more information, please visit: [www.usda.gov/nais/getPIN](http://www.usda.gov/nais/getPIN)

Together, the AIN and PIN provide you, the owner, with peace of mind. With them, animal health officials can alert you if an animal disease is affecting horses in your area.

## National Animal Identification System (NAIS)

You can help protect the health of your horses by participating in the National Animal Identification System. NAIS provides the opportunity for producers that are not part of a disease program to voluntarily participate in national animal health safeguarding efforts. Its goal is to limit the spread of animal diseases, minimize animal losses and economic impact, and protect producers' livelihoods.

By participating in NAIS, you will be alerted quickly when a disease that may affect your animals is detected in your area. You could then take the necessary steps to protect your animals' health. You might also be able to eliminate your animals from disease suspicion.

*Don't be fooled by its small size. This 840 transponder is a powerful tool that can help control the spread of disease and protect your horse's health.*



**Your Animals. Your Livelihood. Your Future. Your NAIS.**

## *But there's more . . .*

Using 840 transponders can also have benefits beyond NAIS. 840 transponders are “official.” That means the AINs, along with your PIN, may be used on official paperwork such as Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) and equine infectious anemia (EIA) tests required for interstate movement. And, because the 840 transponders also meet the requirements of the International Standards Organization, they can be used for the international movement of horses.

Using AINs and PINs on forms such as CVIs and EIA tests will also greatly enhance the ability to respond quickly if disease is detected. Rapid response allows movement restrictions to be lifted in a timely manner. As a result, the horse industry would have less “down time” for exhibitions and sporting events.

840 transponders can also help to identify lost or stolen horses. This is especially important in cases of severe natural disasters, like Hurricane Katrina. During an emergency, owner contact information can be found using a horse's AIN and its linked PIN. Having reliable contact information helps speed owner notification after a horse has been located.

Deciding to use 840 transponders can save you both time and effort. Having one number with many uses is far more efficient than having multiple ID numbers, each with its own limited use.



### *How do I get 840 transponders for my horses?*

In order to use 840 transponders, the location where your horses are kept must first have a PIN. Obtain this through your State animal health officials and Tribal authorities. For information on how to contact your State animal health officials or Tribal authorities, visit:

**[animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/contact\\_us/directories.shtml](http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/contact_us/directories.shtml)**

Only approved manufacturers are authorized to produce 840 transponders. For instructions on how to purchase 840 devices, visit: **[www.usda.gov/nais/840](http://www.usda.gov/nais/840)**

Veterinarians, breed registries, and industry organizations may also sell the 840 transponders. They—along with the authorized transponder manufacturers—are good contacts for finding local sources for purchasing 840 transponders. Once you receive the 840 transponders, you'll need to have them injected into your horses. This should be done by your veterinarian. A video on how the injectable transponders are placed in horses is available at: **[www.aaep.org/microchip\\_video.htm](http://www.aaep.org/microchip_video.htm)**

### *It's that simple.*

Provide your horses with an extra level of defense against the spread of animal diseases. Participate in the National Animal Identification System and use 840 transponders to uniquely identify your horses. The 840 transponders are not designed to replace breed registry identifiers, but rather to offer a standardized option that breeds may use in addition to existing options.

Additional information about how NAIS can benefit you as a horse owner can be obtained by going to one of the following sites:

**[www.usda.gov/nais](http://www.usda.gov/nais)**  
**[www.equinespeciesworkinggroup.com](http://www.equinespeciesworkinggroup.com)**

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#### **Additional Information**

For more information about NAIS, contact:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services  
4700 River Road, Unit 43  
Riverdale, Maryland 20737-1231  
Telephone (301) 734-0799  
Fax (301) 734-7964

**[www.usda.gov/nais](http://www.usda.gov/nais)**

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